



San Diego City Attorney Michael J. Aguirre

NEWS RELEASE

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CHARITY LEADER PLEADS GUILTY TO SELLING FOOD BANK DONATIONS AT THE SWAP MEET

Jose Alanis Cano Pastor of Iglesia Fuente De Vida Enters Plea

San Diego, CA: Jose Alanis Cano, 45, Pastor of the Iglesia Apostolica Fuente De Vida, pleaded guilty today to one count of grand theft, one count of forgery, and one count of filing false sales tax returns in conjunction with his illegal sale of donated food at a local swap meet. From 2003 to 2004, Alanis Cano, through his church, obtained hundreds of thousands of pounds of food and non-food items from the San Diego Food Bank. Defendant paid approximately 18 cents per pound for these donated items.

"After the Union Tribune newspaper broke the story regarding the alleged misappropriation of donated food from the Food Bank, I immediately asked our Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit to investigate the matter," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre. "Based upon that investigation criminal charges were filed in conjunction with two incidents of food sales by Cano at the Spring Valley Swap Meet.

The defendant was sentenced to serve 360 days in custody stayed upon the completion of 40 days of Public Work Service and all terms of probation. The defendant was also ordered to pay restitution to the San Diego Food Bank in the amount of \$5,000. During the three year term of probation the Defendant is banned from obtaining food from any Food Bank or any food charity, he may not hold a seller's permit in the name of any charity, and must submit to Fourth Amendment searches and audits of any food sold by defendant.

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